

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, May 27, 1895, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell. Paris, May 27, 1895. My darling Alec:

No letter from you and I begin to think it time I heard again. Please don't stint your letters while I am alone here. Only you and Mamma write me. Mr. McCurdy seems to have quite forgotten me nowadays.

I begin to feel that it is sometime since I saw you and that the calendar persists in saying that it is May while I am sure from my inner consciousness that it is at least two months since we arrived. I want to know what you are doing about the flying machine. Will you go on and accomplish something? I do hope you won't drop it after all your hard work and our sacrifices.

The children are beginning to advance. I am in hope that they will improve fast. Mrs. Mauro says that the singer she saw thinks eighteen young enough to begin singing lessons and that it is not safe younger than that. What do you want me to do about Elsie? I have now three ladies recommended to me by very different persons.

I am impatient for you to tell me what you think of my being here. For me I feel very safe behind these high walls and strongly barred doors. They close out the world so completely and all within are so kindly that I feel at ease and that you must also be if you knew just how matters stood. We are not in the convent and the religious side of the lives of the people around me is not obtruded on us. The school children, Elsie and Daisy say are required to get on their knees and say a little prayer before beginning each new lesson or going out to play and Elsie and Daisy follow suit 2 except that they omit the crossing. I can not see any vital danger in this and so far from objecting to our going to our own church,

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Mother Lucia was so troubled by Daisy's staying at home yesterday, so sure she must be ill or at least very tired that I think she will be very sure to go to church next Sunday. Daisy says that although one of the nuns had been here seven years she never saw the Place des Etats Unis until the other day as she came into the convent from the Rue de Lubeck gate. It seems dreadful to think of being confined into this small square all these years. The nuns, however, all look most peaceful and happy and there never was a merrier soul than our dear Mother Lucie. They are all very busy, having charge of two hundred and fifty girls.

Our children are good children and look after their Mother to the best of their ability. Today they would not allow me to go to the hair-dresser's alone and talked so wisely of what Papa would wish that I could not laugh at them and asked Mrs. Mauro to go with me. They went for their first walk with Mlle. Phillipi this afternoon and had a good time and talked French. This morning they were in school until twelve and then had games in the garden with the children till two. At 4 came another lesson and then Mlle. The French teacher can not speak a word of English. There are three other Americans in the French class, but as two of them are Spanish Americans they don't count. Blanche Emory is another American here. She is the daughter of Lieut. Emery who lives in the house on the corner of Conn. Ave., brother-in-law of Mr. Bordken who built our Scott Circle house. She speaks both languages equally well.

Ever yours,